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Media Advisory

TARDEC

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TARDEC Participates in 2008 Infantry Warfighter Conference
Focus on Training Technologies for the Future Fight

DETROIT ARSENAL, WARREN, MI ─ U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) associates participated in the 2008 Infantry Warfighting Conference Sept. 15-17 at Fort Benning, GA.

This year's conference focused on the contemporary operational environment, and TARDEC showcased its recent contributions to the current fight. "It goes without saying that everything we do at TARDEC is in support of our warfighters," explained TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek. "This conference allowed us to interact with Soldiers, to share the products of our research with them and to gain insight as to how we might better serve them both now and in the future fight."

Videos featured the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT) and Improvised Explosive Device Self-Protective Adaptive Roller Kit (SPARK), both recent Army Greatest Inventions winners. This conference was a good venue to showcase the TARDEC-developed and -designed HEAT, which was created in response to an Operational Needs Statement to train Soldiers how to react in a vehicle rollover. Soldiers, including the gunner, can train on how to properly open their safety restraints and exit the vehicle through either the doors or the gunner's hatch. The TARDEC HEAT is now the U.S. Army standard for egress training and is required training for all Soldiers and civilians deploying into the theater of operations.

The SPARK provides additional standoff protection to the vehicle and crew against pressure activated or Improvised Explosive Devices and mines. The rollers are installed on the front and rear of vehicles and apply variable amounts of downward pressure to adapt to possible emerging threats. By rolling over and activating the pressure switch out in front of a vehicle, the explosive device is often detonated in front of the vehicle instead of underneath it. This greatly reduces the risk of injury to the crew and battle damage to the vehicle and its equipment.

"The Army and, in fact, the entire Department of Defense, relies on us to be the Ground Vehicle Center for Excellence," Bochenek remarked. "To uphold that mission, we must continue our work on the entire vehicle life cycle. Getting the right vehicles with the right

equipment into the field quickly is our main priority, and making sure the warfighter has everything he or she needs to properly use those vehicles is a key component of our success."

The conference also featured two unmanned vehicles created by TARDEC's Joint Center for Robotics (JCR) and Robotic Systems Joint Project Office Unmanned Vehicle Center for Excellence. These vehicles, the PackBot® and MARCbot IV, address the Department of Defense's need to stay at the forefront of emerging technologies. This center provides the point of synergy for research, development, engineering (RD&E), systems integration, acquisition, logistics and support for every one of the robots put in the theater today.

The PackBot®510 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) robot's missions include EOD, route clearance, engineer support, reconnaissance and surveillance. The MARCbot IV is a low-cost, wheeled reconnaissance robot designed to provide the warfighter with a remote, look-only capability.

Note: There are two photos that can be used with this release. Caption information follows. To download the photo, go to http://www.tardec.info/pressreleases/.

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TARDEC-PR-0823_1_Ha.jpg
Quick Reaction Cell Deputy Assistant Director MAJ Anh Ha operates the iRobot® PackBot® using a PlayStation® 2-like controller at the 2008 Infantry Warfighting Conference Sept. 15-17 at Fort Benning, GA. Two unmanned vehicles created by TARDEC's Joint Center for Robotics (JCR) and Robotic Systems Joint Project Office Unmanned Vehicle Center for Excellence were featured at the conference. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo by Todd Sankbeil)

TARDEC-PR-0823_2_Freiberger.jpg
TARDAC's Lonnie Freiberger shows Soldiers some of the features on the iRobot® PackBot® at the 2008 Infantry Warfighting Conference Sept. 15-17 at Fort Benning, GA. The PackBot® and another robot featured at the conference the MARCbot IV address the Department of Defense's need to stay at the forefront of emerging technologies.

TARDEC is the Nation's laboratory for advanced military ground systems and automotive technology. A leading technology integrator for the U.S. Army Materiel Command's Research Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM), TARDEC is headquartered at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, MI, located in the heart of the world's automotive capitol. TARDEC is a major element of RDECOM and partner in the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command. As a full life-cycle engineering support provider-of-first-choice for all DOD ground combat and combat support weapons and vehicle systems, TARDEC develops and integrates the right technology solutions to improve Current Force

effectiveness and provide superior capabilities for the Future Force. TARDEC's technical staff leads research in ground vehicle survivability; mobility/power and energy; robotics and intelligent systems; maneuver support and sustainment; and vehicle electronics and architecture. TARDEC develops and maintains ground vehicles for all U.S. Armed Forces and numerous federal agencies.

For additional information about TARDEC's forthcoming developments and other technologies, please contact Mike Roddin at mike.roddin@us.army.mil.